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beak note, however, resembles the tanager call more closely than it does the thrasher call. I spelled it *prilly* or *prilleh*. There is something musical or pleasing-to-the-ear in its timbre, as suggested in the letters "r" and "l". The vowel sounds are easily determinable. In manner of delivery it is rather lively, and the expression is somewhat querulous or enquiring.

As to the song, which I had opportunity to hear for many successive days, as sung both by "my" Grosbeak and by others in the same general vicinity: never, by any possible stretch of the imagination did I hear a song in the slightest degree bringing to mind the song of the Black-headed Grosbeak, which Ray (p. 178) says it resembles. It is utterly different in timbre, in form, in pitch—in every essential. The timbre of the Black-headed's song is round and smooth and mellow; that of the Pine's is vibrant and musically rough, or "burred" in a silvery-toned sort of way. The song of the Black-headed is easy and fluent; that of the Pine is forced and fricative. In form I have found the song of the Pine Grosbeak far from the elaborate affair described by Ray. The very longest songs I heard were not "varied" to any notable extent, nor were they prolonged enough to contain a "series" of anything, let alone "trills, warblings and mellow flute-like notes." The typical song, so far as I have been able to discover, is a comparatively short "set song", in general form not unsuggestive of the warble of the Cassin Purple Finch. One song, recorded "from life", ran *pree-pr-pr, pr-pr-pree?* This is perhaps shorter than the usual song, yet not much so, I think. One bird ended its song always with a brave *pree-veur!* in perfect imitation of the Olive-sided Flycatcher, this note standing forth when the rest of the song was damped out by distance. I do not know whether this appropriation of the Olive-sided Flycatcher's call was peculiar to this one individual Pine Grosbeak or whether others do the same thing. Finally, the pitch of the Black-headed's song is comparatively low, with a preponderance of mellow "eu" sounds and others from the same general region. The pitch of the Pine's is comparatively high, and is characterized throughout with long-*e* and short-*i* tonals, perpetuating themselves forcibly as if made to go with great pressure through a musically vibrating small orifice.

*Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, September 8, 1921.*

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**The Speed of a Flying Dove.**—The automobile has, ere this, been the means of determining the approximate speed of birds (see CONDOR, xxii, p. 186), and once again it comes into play for the same purpose.

The Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*) is considered a fast-flying bird by sportsmen, and it has been said to attain the speed of sixty or seventy miles an hour. This has always seemed an extravagant speculation to me and I firmly believe it so now. That the bird is a difficult wing-shot is due to its erratic flight and small size (feathers not counted) more than to its speed.

This was fairly demonstrated when, on July 28, 1921, I rounded a curve on the boulevard between San Jose and Oakland and almost ran onto a dove. The sudden appearance of the car and noise of the motor frightened the bird so that it crouched for a moment and did not flush until I was almost on top of it. At the moment it flew I slowed down a bit, but the bird was evidently frightened and confused for when it started off to the right, the approaching machine drove it back straight ahead, and an attempt to break to the left resulted likewise. The bird then settled down to the

business of getting away straight ahead. It was flying about twenty-five feet over the road-bed and appeared plainly to be exerting all its energy. During this very short time the bird had gotten about thirty or forty feet ahead of me when I commenced crowding it.

Accelerating my speed until I attained thirty-five miles an hour, I saw I was gaining perceptibly on the bird, and maintained that speed. The dove was evidently resigned to its fate, for it flew straight over the road-bed for about a quarter of a mile, when I came almost under it, and with a violent left-wing stroke it shot off to the right and over the fields. At this instant I was endeavoring to regulate my speed to correspond with that of the bird, but its sudden side-step frustrated this. It is, however, safe to conclude that the dove's flight was in the neighborhood of thirty miles an hour. Certainly it was considerably less than thirty-five miles an hour, and there was no wind to hinder or assist its progress. Moreover its actions were totally unlike those of most doves under similar circumstances. They seldom crouch before flushing, and they usually fly to the right or the left, exhibiting no trace of confusion.

One element of error in the conclusion that the greatest speed of doves is thirty miles an hour remains, namely, that this bird may have been a grown juvenile with as yet undeveloped powers of flight; but it did not appear so to me.—FRANK N. BASSETT, *Alameda, California, August 16, 1921.*

**The Intrepid Pewee.**—During the week, August 15 to 21, 1921, we were in one of the Fallen Leaf Lodge cottages on the edge of Fallen Leaf Lake, Eldorado County, California. The whole country in that section of the state is generally well wooded. Our cottage was in the midst of fairly large forest trees, consisting of white fir, incense cedar and Jeffrey pine. One of the commonest birds about Fallen Leaf Lake is the Western Wood Pewee (*Myiochanes richardsoni richardsoni*), and one bird of this species had the habit of perching at the very top of a small incense cedar, about twenty-five to thirty feet from the ground, and darting off to catch flying insects, often making a single audible snap during the flight, apparently made with the bill at the instant of taking its prey.

This bird made many spirited attacks upon Blue-fronted Jays (*Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*). The attacks usually consisted of a series of stoops from some distance and my attention was always drawn to the performance by hearing the snapping noise made by the Pewee, which sounded the same as the noise made in seizing an insect, but repeated rapidly during the attacks. It would not be safe to say that the noise was not made with the wings, but I think that it was not; yet I have a doubt on this point, which I was not able to clear up. Several times the Pewee was seen following flying Jays, but it was not clear whether the Jay was fleeing or the Pewee merely following. In these attacks the Pewee displayed the utmost dexterity, passing through the crowns of the trees without any perceptible loss of speed and dashing directly at, or very close to, the enemy. Its swiftness and accuracy of flight were not less admirable than its intrepid spirit.

The reaction of the Jays to these attacks was to move off as if annoyed or disturbed rather than alarmed, but in some instances the Jays moved off fast enough to give the impression of rapid retreat. The attacks always persisted until the Jay or Jays attacked had left. Once I witnessed an attack upon two Jays and again upon three, neither the size nor the number of enemies seeming to deter the truculence of the diminutive aggressor. This Pewee was under observation for short periods every day for a week and nothing about its behavior indicated that it had a nest or young to protect, and it seemed evident that the attacks on the Jays were entirely offensive.—CLAUDE GIGNOUX, *Berkeley, California, September 17, 1921.*

**Birds and Oil in Oklahoma.**—Floating oil on the Pacific is not the only trap which birds must avoid if they would live; for in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas the same sorts of traps exist and annually destroy a considerable quantity of bird-life.

In an oil field there is an inevitable waste of oil. This waste is caused by wild wells, leakage in tanks and pipe lines, cleaning out of old wells, tanks and lines, and simple abandonment of non-merchantable oil. All of this waste collects in artificial ponds which lie along natural drainage courses and after a few weeks standing becomes thick and gummy through the evaporation of the lighter constituents. From the air

these ponds appear as blue as ponds of water and they undoubtedly attract water fowl.

The smaller sandpipers, when migrating, fall prey to these traps in larger numbers than all other birds collectively. This is probably due to their habit of wading along the shallow margins of ponds in search of their food. I have seen ducks descend as if to alight in oil ponds, but they never do; they must be warned in time by odor or some non-attractive appearance the pond may have. The larger waders get their feet oiled up but not the plumage.

There is no remedy for this condition and the wild life will have to suffer its continuance as it does telegraph wires, light houses and the like.—J. R. PEMBERTON, *Tulsa, Oklahoma, August 21, 1921.*

**Least Tern Feeding Young on September 25.**—All during the early part of September, 1921, Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*) were still feeding young at Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County, California. On September 25, one adult was still feeding a single young bird. The adult brought small fish at intervals of about twenty minutes to a flat in a lagoon where the young bird waited. At the approach of the parent the young bird uttered the characteristic *kit-tick*, opened its mouth and spread its wings. After feeding the young bird, the parent always dipped its bill two or three times in the lagoon as it flew off. Once the parent alighted in the lagoon and bathed. The young bird joined it, and both floated and splashed a moment or two.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, California, September 25, 1921.*

**On the Occurrence of the Buffle-head at Eagle Lake.**—The article by Mr. Dixon in the last CONDOR was read with particular interest because of the fact that we had

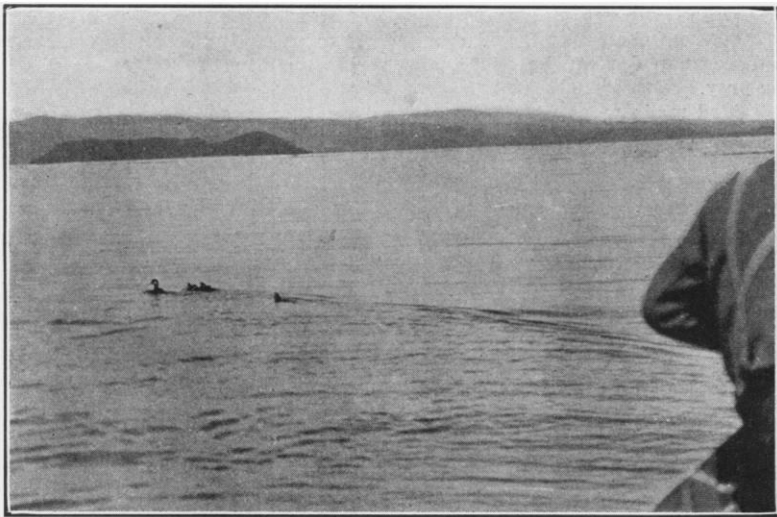


Fig. 32. IN PURSUIT OF THE BUFFLE-HEAD, WITH YOUNG, ON EAGLE LAKE, CALIFORNIA, MAY 27, 1921.

noted a pair of these ducks with young on the lake prior to Mr. Dixon's visit. Our party, consisting of Messrs. Jules Labarthe, Sr. and Jr., and the writer, after an extended collecting trip in northern California and southern Oregon, on our way south, encamped at the lake for a few days. May 27 (1921) was spent on a trip to the islands along the east shore of Eagle Lake. Here we found Farallon Cormorants with everything from newly built nests to those with half-grown young. The California Gulls, however, were

just beginning to lay, while in the great rookery of American White Pelicans we were surprised to find that every set of eggs (and there were scores) had been destroyed by some undetermined agency.

While rowing along the island shore we came upon a female *Charitonetta albeola* with eight small young. We realized the species had not hitherto been recorded from the state as a breeding bird, and knowing, too, that all records are best when backed by proof we started in immediate and, I fear, rather noisy pursuit in an endeavor to secure photographs. The best of these are shown herewith. In the excitement of the chase two of the juveniles became separated from the brood and some time later were discovered close to the island shore. Here, tireless efforts on the part of Jules, Jr. (for the speed with which they could swim and dive was a revelation) resulted in their capture and in their later posing, unwillingly, before the graflex.

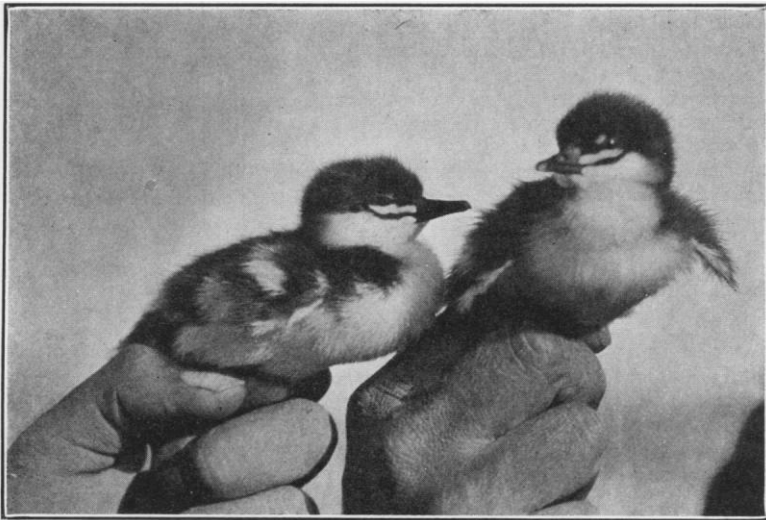


Fig. 33. YOUNG BUFFLE-HEAD DUCKS, CAPTURED BY JULES LABARTHE, JR., AT EAGLE LAKE, MAY 27, 1921.

Photo by Jules Labarthe, Sr.

Eventually the ducklings were released and with seeming joy and great speed they paddled to their parents (for the strikingly marked male, too, had now made his appearance); and in a small lake of the island (or neck of mainland, we never determined which) they then all cruised around contentedly after their most spirited adventure.

Later a storm arose on the lake, and the high waves rapidly filling our boat on the journey homeward we were forced to return to the isle. Here we were marooned, provisionless, for the rest of the day. Late in the evening we rowed back to our camp against a rough sea in pitchy darkness, an experience that was all too thrilling for pleasure.—MILTON S. RAY, *San Francisco, California, October 6, 1921.*

**The Sabine Gull in Southern California.**—I wish to report two Sabine Gulls (*Xema sabini*) seen at Anaheim Landing, August 30, 1921. Three members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, Mesdames C. H. Hall, A. J. Mix and F. T. Bicknell, at 11 a. m. saw what at a distance resembled a Bonaparte Gull on account of its dark head. The bird was alone and constantly preening its feathers. Moving forward quietly, the observers approached within thirty feet or less and studied the bird at leisure with binoculars for at least twenty minutes. They followed it slowly along the water's edge, trying several times, without frightening it, to put it to flight; but with a flight of a few feet, it would settle on the beach again. It seemed tired as from a long flight.

The slaty hood bordered at base with black, the dark gray mantle and black outer wing quills, with inner webs and tips white, were unmistakable; and its slightly forked tail, black feet and black bill tipped with yellow, were easily noted and identified the bird as still in summer plumage,

At 2 p. m. the same day, farther down the coast, between Anaheim Landing and Seal Beach, a second Sabine Gull was studied; it was in the winter plumage, only a remnant of the dusky hood on back of head and slaty ear coverts remaining. It, too, seemed worn with long flight, allowing the Audubonites to approach within fifty feet, where a good study was made. A Western Gull was patrolling the beach in lordly style and ordered the Sabine to "move on", emphasizing the command with ruffled plumage and open bill attacks. Neither of the Sabines were feeding.

This report was telephoned to Mr. L. E. Wyman, Ornithologist of the Los Angeles Museum, the same evening before any books were consulted and his questions were answered from notes made of the birds as studied first-hand in the field. He did not question the identification.—MRS. F. T. BICKNELL, *Los Angeles, California, September 1, 1921.*

**The Gray Vireo in Los Angeles County, California.**—On May 31, 1921, I discovered a Gray Vireo (*Vireo vicinior*) in Mint Canyon, twelve miles from Saugus, California. So far as I am able to learn, this species has not previously been recorded west of the Cajon Pass region, which is some fifty miles east of Saugus. The bird was not taken, but it was studied for three hours under favorable conditions. Only the one bird was seen, presumably the male, as it was in full song. It had established a station in the chamisal among typical "gray vireo conditions". From this station it was driven again and again only to return to the same point each time. Prolonged search failed to reveal the nest although it seemed certain that one must be located within a short distance. Identification was based upon song, the ashy gray color, and persistence in plant association all made more or less familiar through previous acquaintance in Arizona and in the Cajon Pass country.—LOYE MILLER, *Southern Branch, University of California, Los Angeles, September 19, 1921.*

**Eclipse Plumage of Cinnamon Teal.**—On July 11, 1921, A. W. Anthony, H. C. Cleaves and I explored Cuyamaca Reservoir, a lake in the Cuyamaca Mountains, San Diego county, for material for a habitat group of grebes for the Natural History Museum of San Diego. A year previously I had found grebes breeding abundantly in the tule patches covering several acres at the east end of the lake. Last winter's rains were scanty here and the steady draft on the water of the reservoir had lowered the water so much that the tule patches were high and dry and the grebes had gone elsewhere, though we did see a brood or two, too large for our purpose.

Several broods of young ducks were present and I saw a group of three Cinnamon Teal (*Querquedula cyanoptera*) that I thought were nearly grown and shot two of them. These proved to be adults in a stage of plumage new to me. On skinning them I found both to be males. They are in the "eclipse" plumage which is undescribed in any publication accessible to me here. Probably individuals will vary somewhat, as is the case with these two birds. No. 7455 may be described as follows:

Similar to the usual female plumage; crown and nape dark brown; sides of head, throat and neck a pepper-and-salt mixture of dull cinnamon and light gray speckled with blackish; back and rump as in the spring plumage except that the mottling is coarser and the light edgings to the feathers narrower; the wings and tail are not yet molted and perhaps would not show any changes; plumage of breast and lower surface similar to that of the female and immature male, the feathers being brown centrally, with lighter edgings; this edging is dull pale cinnamon on the breast, passing to light gray and dull white on the belly. There are a few small patches of the old cinnamon plumage on the sides. The lower surface of the other bird is still nearly half cinnamon colored. It had yellowish brown irises, while those of no. 7455 were red.—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, California, August 17, 1921.*

**Concerning Incubation on the Part of the Male Belted Kingfisher.\***—In the volume entitled "Michigan Bird Life", by Professor Walter Barrows, published in 1912 by the Department of Zoology and Physiology of the Michigan Agricultural College, under the head of Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*), on page 343, the statement is made that "The female alone incubates, but the male carries food to her at frequent intervals." This may have been taken from Bendire's "Life Histories of North American Birds", in which

\*Contribution from the Museum of the California Academy of Sciences.

the latter author says, page 38, "The male does not assist in incubation, but supplies its mate with food while so engaged, and she rarely leaves the nest after the first egg has been laid; at any rate I have invariably found the bird at home if there were any eggs in the nest". Major Bendire is referred to in the sentence just previous to the one first quoted above.

For more light on this subject I have recently looked up far too many authorities to mention in this brief article, but the only other reference to the matter of the incubating habits of this species that I have so far found is in Nuttall's "Manual of the Ornithology of the United States and Canada", 2nd edition, page 720, where it says "incubation, in which both parents engage, continues for 16 days". So here are two well known ornithologists responsible for absolutely contradictory statements! The matter is "side-stepped" by every other authority that I have consulted.

Now it happened on June 24, 1921, that Dr. G. Dallas Hanna, of the California Academy of Sciences, my brother, John W. Mailliard, and I were lunching at noon time in the bed of Nicasio Creek, Marin County, California, at the base of Black Mountain, and while so occupied noticed a Belted Kingfisher fly into a hole in the opposite bank. Soon after finishing lunch we proceeded to investigate this matter and discovered a nest containing five eggs, about one-third incubated, with the male bird in the tunnel and apparently on the nest. This tunnel was about ten feet long and only twelve or fourteen inches below the surface of the ground, which was rather sandy and friable, and the cavity was easily pried open by means of an old fence picket.

The bird did not attempt to leave until the nest was almost reached in the upheaving process. As it flew off it was secured for evidence and proved to be the male, with the abdominal region partially bare, as if from sitting on the eggs.

Earlier in the day two kingfishers had been observed flying up and down the creek, and shortly before lunch a female had been taken as it perched for a moment on a snag about seventy-five yards below the nest, which we had not at that time discovered. This female was apparently the other owner, yet showed practically no sign of having been incubating, as the plumage upon the abdomen was in a good state of preservation.

While this matter is not one of great importance it is one of some interest and, as part of the life history of a well known bird, might as well be cleared up if possible, hence this short paper is written in the hope that some other observer, who may have had better opportunities to study the question, may come forward with sufficient evidence to prove the point one way or the other.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California, August 10, 1921.*

**Eastern Kingbird at Mono Lake.**—On July 19, 1921, I saw an Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) near Mono Lake, Mono County, California. In Grinnell's Distributional List (1915), there are only two records for the bird from California.—RALPH HOFFMAN, *Carpenteria, California, September 25, 1921.*

**Chronicle of Additions and Eliminations Pertaining to the California State List of Birds.**—The present note carries the chronicle of the birds of California forward from Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 11 (1915) and from my supplementary note in THE CONDOR of January, 1919 (vol. xxi, pp. 41-42) to October 15, 1921. I have followed the rule of letting all definite proposals "ride", as if the findings set forth were final in every respect, unless and until someone has brought forward good reasons for doubting the conclusions involved. No attention is here paid to mere changes in names; only the addition or subtraction of "concepts" of species or subspecies is considered.

#### ADDITIONS

1. *Larus occidentalis livens* Dwight. Dark-mantled Western Gull. (See Dwight, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., vol. 32, February 14, 1919, p. 11.)
2. *Phaethon aethereus* Linnaeus. Red-billed Tropic Bird. (See Law, Condor, xxi, March, 1919, p. 88.)
3. *Chen caerulescens* (Linnaeus). Blue Goose. (See Grinnell, Condor, xxii, March, 1920, p. 76.)
4. *Polyborus cheriway* (Jacquin). Audubon Caracara. (See Heath, Condor, xxi, March, 1919, p. 125.)
5. *Otus asio macfarlanei* (Brewster). MacFarlane Screech Owl. (See Grinnell, Condor, xxi, July, 1919, p. 173.)

6. *Bubo virginianus occidentalis* Stone. Rocky Mountain Horned Owl. (See Swarth, Condor, xxiii, July, 1921, p. 136.)
7. *Otocoris alpestris sierrae* Oberholser. Sierra Horned Lark. (See Oberholser, Condor, xxii, January, 1920, p. 34.)
8. *Euphagus cyanocephalus minusculus* Grinnell. California Brewer Blackbird. (See Grinnell, Condor, xxii, July, 1920, p. 153.)
9. *Passerculus sandwichensis brooksi* Bishop. Dwarf Savannah Sparrow. (See Bishop, Condor, xvii, September, 1915, p. 187, and Mailliard, Condor, xxiii, September, 1921, p. 164.)
10. *Passerella iliaca fulva* Swarth. Warner Mountains Fox Sparrow. (See Swarth, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., vol. 31, December 30, 1918, p. 162.)
11. *Passerella iliaca canescens* Swarth. White Mountains Fox Sparrow. (See Swarth, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., vol. 31, December 30, 1918, p. 163.)
12. *Passerella iliaca mariposae* Swarth. Yosemite Fox Sparrow. (See Swarth, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., vol. 31, December 30, 1918, p. 161.)
13. *Piranga rubra rubra* (Linnaeus). Summer Tanager. (See Miller, Condor, xxi, May, 1919, p. 129; *idem*, xxii, March, 1920, p. 78.)
14. *Petrochelidon albifrons hypopolia* Oberholser. Northwestern Cliff Swallow. (See Oberholser, Canadian Field-Naturalist, xxxiii, November, 1919, p. 95.)
15. *Toxostoma curvirostre palmeri* (Coues). Palmer Thrasher. (See Huey, Condor, xxii, March, 1920, p. 73.)

## ELIMINATIONS

1. *Numenius americanus occidentalis* Woodhouse. Lesser Long-billed Curlew. [Leaving simply *Numenius americanus* as the species, Long-billed Curlew.] (See Grinnell, Condor, xxiii, January, 1921, p. 21.)
2. *Toxostoma redivivum pasadenense* (Grinnell). Pasadena Thrasher. [Leaving *Toxostoma redivivum redivivum* as the California Thrasher throughout the coastal and west-Sierran parts of the state south of the San Francisco Bay region.] (See Oberholser, Auk, xxxv, January, 1918, p. 52, and Grinnell, Condor, xxiii, September, 1921, p. 165.)
3. *Heleodytes brunneicapillus bryanti* Anthony. Bryant Cactus Wren. (See Grinnell, Condor, xxiii, September, 1921, p. 169.)

With the 15 additions and the 3 eliminations specified above, the net increment is 12; this number added to the total of 564 (in January, 1919) makes a present state list of 576 species and subspecies.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, October 15, 1921.*

**Bird Banding.**—The writer recently suggested to the Editor that a definite place in THE CONDOR, the same position in each issue, be assigned to the publication of records of birds banded in the western states. Stimulation of the movement should result, and one actively engaged in banding or in taking specimens would have a reference list instantly at hand when he captured a bird banded by another. The plan was accepted on condition that the writer "function as furnisher" of copy for such column, and place for recording such data has been assigned to the last page of "From Field and Study" department.

Will those who are banding, or who have banded, birds, or who have taken banded birds alive or dead, please send to the appended address full data with regard to same, in order that it may be published without delay? The United States Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., will furnish bands and full information with regard to their use to any one who is interested. Report through CONDOR columns will not in any way replace, of course, the rendering of reports to the Biological Survey, or prevent the further use of the data by those who furnish it, but will merely constitute a local "clearing house" for such data.

Mr. S. Prentiss Baldwin has demonstrated (see various articles in the *Auk* and elsewhere) the value of data thus obtained, even by one working alone. Naturally the results can be greatly multiplied by the cooperation of those at many points, particularly in our western states, where migration routes and local distribution are doubtless affected by topographical features.—J. EUGENE LAW, 333 S. Van Ness Ave., Los Angeles, California, October 3, 1921.